SEPT 23-24, 2005

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **September 23** and **24**. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major discussions and decisions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

President's Report

President Kevin Foley took office on August 1 and since that time has attended various meetings in his capacity as President. He brought greetings to the Physical Education Special Interest Council Conference, visited numerous schools, and was interviewed by various media on education issues.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President.

Association Priorities

Provincial Executive determined Association Priorities for 2005-07 during a strategic planning session facilitated by Beverley Park and René Wicks from the Professional Development Division. During the session Executive identified priorities, reviewed past practices, and discussed the issues that are expected to predominate activities for the coming year.

Executive requested that staff summarize the items reviewed during the planning session and prepare a report for the next Executive meeting.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Orientation for New Executive

An orientation session took place with Executive members to review the programs and services of the NLTA, their role as Executive members, governance and the Executive role within the Association, parliamentary procedures and the structure of committees and committee leadership.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Business of Standing Committees

Table Officers

- A policy will be drafted to define the composition of the NLTA Negotiating Team as per current practice.
- A line will be created in the Professional Development budget equivalent to fifty percent of the fees collected by NLTA on school administrators' allowances, and such funds will be used to support and enhance professional development opportunities for school administrators.
- The NLTA will donate $2,000 to the Education International Hurricane Katrina Appeal.
- An internal analysis of all NLTA programs and services will be undertaken by NLTA staff before Executive determines what further review may be necessary to action the resolution from BGM re an internal review.
- The June meeting of Provincial Executive is rescheduled from June 9-10 to June 2-3, 2006.
- A letter will be written to the Guatemalan Government protesting the violence against human rights activists and the violation of trade union rights.
- The Association will write the Minister of Education to express its views re the state of school libraries in the province due to the underfunding and lack of resources provided.
- The NLTA will be represented on the Coalition for Educational Opportunities.
- The Association will circulate the GEO Friends Program invitations to the membership from the Johnson GEO Centre.
- Executive will initiate a process to review the place of special interest councils within the legislative side of the Association so that appropriate by-law changes to give voting status to special interest councils at BGM can be put forward and supported by Provincial Executive at BGM 2007.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Ad Hoc Committee on Substitute Teachers

An Ad Hoc Committee on Substitute Teachers was established during the May meeting of Provincial Executive. The committee terms of reference were approved by Executive at the September meeting. The committee will obtain input from substitute teachers throughout the province in order to determine: their professional development needs; the contractual employment issues and concerns; and the scope of services that substitute teachers expect to receive from the NLTA. The committee will also review benefits and services that are provided to substitute teachers across Canada and make recommendations to Provincial Executive on these issues.

For further information contact James Dinn, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Substitute Teachers, or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

(see over)

Ad Hoc Committee on Special Interest Council Restructuring

The effective date of the by-law amendment from BGM 2005 regarding special interest council restructuring will be September 1, 2006.

The ad hoc committee will use the intervening time to develop appropriate policies to govern the new structure.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President, or Bill Chaisson, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Interest Council Restructuring.

Standing Committees for 2005-06	
Committee	**Chairperson**
Communications/Political Action	Jackie Maloney
Curriculum	Wayne Park
Equity Issues in Education	Paul Pinsent
Electoral Committee	To Be Announced
Finance and Property	Dean Ingram
Group Insurance	Bill Chaisson
Membership Benefits & Services	Ed Moore
Professional Issues in Teaching	Lily Cole

Other Business

- The survey of the membership to determine their wishes regarding the opening and closing dates of the school year will be conducted through the branch structure.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

- The draft policy on student assessment from the Eastern School District will be studied by the appropriate committee in order to develop an official Association response. Following input from teachers affected, preliminary recommendations on the issue will be prepared for the November Executive meeting.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or René Wicks, Administrative Officer in the Professional Development Division.

- The Association will approve the practise of teachers voting to extend the school day only in the situation where the use of that day off is totally within the discretion of the individual teacher and where there is no requirement by the employer or school for the teacher to report to school, remain on site, attend an inservice or any school-related meeting.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

- The Association will write the Department of Education requesting that administration of the book loan program be removed from the school system and given to Health and Community Services to administer.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

- The Association will write all applicable school districts requesting that the districts reverse the decision that support staff members will not be replaced until their third day of absence.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for follow up or future direction: the examination schedule for junior and senior high students; scribing exams for students; on-line report cards; discretionary leave; rates of travel; teachers' pension plan; and travel time for board in-service.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **November 24** followed by Joint Council on **November 25-26, 2005** in St. John's.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President.

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